

*January 14, 2009*

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Jerry McNerney (CA-11) supported an effort today to provide health care for 11 million children. The legislation passed the House by a vote of 289-139.

“Every young child deserves quality health care. In fact, regular childhood checkups, along with early detection of health problems, can prevent serious health issues. The State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) was created in 1997 to provide health care coverage for children who are not covered by their parents’ health insurance. The legislation is similar to two bills considered in the 110th Congress, and vetoed by President Bush, to reauthorize the program. “Because of this legislation reauthorizing the State Children’s Health Insurance Program,” Rep. McNerney said. The bill is fully paid for by raising the tobacco tax. Raising the tobacco tax also promotes children’s health by reducing smoking. “With rising unemployment, this children’s health bill is more critical than ever,” said Rep. McNerney. “I